

الانجليزية

Muhammad

The Prophet Of God

May the peace of God be upon him

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لجنة التعريف بالإسلام

ISLAM PRESENTATION COMMITTEE

جمعية الشجرة الخيرية

1. Introduction

Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the last prophet of the One and only Almighty God. He was chosen by God to bring mankind the final divine revelation and message of the submission to God Almighty (Islam). He was not a new Prophet with a new religion. He was the final Prophet of the same message which God has sent to mankind since Adam and Eve. This message is the pure monotheistic belief in the One Almighty God and the submission to His will in servitude to Him alone. This religion is known in Arabic as 'Islam'. This is the same message sent to Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus (peace be upon them), but that the followers of these and many other Prophets of God differed in understanding and corrupted the revelations throughout the years.

1,426 years after his death, well over 1 billion people hold him dearly to their heart (1 in 5 people). His message covers one quarter of the earth's surface. Even with this knowledge, the other 4 out of 5 people of the earth are generally ignorant about him. Along with this, many hateful leaders and priests of other religions are promoting hate toward the prophet Muhammad (pbuh). This is a result of two realities. The first is a result of the all forms of modern media and biased non-Muslim historians who have worked very hard to present Islam as a violent and dangerous religion. The second cause is that regardless of their sinister efforts, Islam is by far the fastest growing religion in the U.S., England, and France growing %500 in the last 50 years in these specific countries. So we see a type of jealousy cultivated by this fact.

2. His Life

He was born in Makkah in 570 Common Era among the tribe of Quraish. Quraish was one of the greatest tribes in Arabia which had assumed leadership of Makkah. The young Muhammad displayed exceptional virtues as a respected truthful young man whom members of various tribes would invite to act as arbitrator in their disputes. He was actually nicknamed years before his Prophethood as "Ameen" which means the honest and trustworthy.

God Almighty protected him from the evils of the Arab way of life such as drinking alcohol, fornication, theft, murder, and so on. When he (pbuh) reached 25 years he

was working for a very special woman named Khadeejah who was 40. Khadeejah had been married and widowed twice and she was known for her noble characteristics including intelligence, good character, beauty, and wealth from her being a business owner. She sent someone to talk to him concerning the subject of marriage. He accepted and they were shortly thereafter married. They were married for 24 years until the sad day when Khadeejah "The Mother of the Believers" passed at age 64.

Back in those days, the Arabs practiced many forms of idolatry, each tribe keeping its own idols at the Ka'bah (The first building built for the worship of The One God). Sadly the monotheistic message of Abraham had long become corrupted and forgotten among the general population of the Arabian Peninsula. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), however never participated in the idolatrous practices of his people. He became bothered with the lifestyle of Makkah; its idol worshipping, superstitions, and indulging in worldly lusts and pleasures. Because of this uneasiness, he made a habit of going into seclusion in the nearby mountains of Makkah seeking a peace of mind. When he would go on these seclusions the trees and rocks would say "Peace be upon you". Startled he would turn and find nothing but rocks and trees.

When he reached forty years old, during one of the retreats of spiritual seclusion in the month of Ramadan, Muhammad (pbuh) first saw the Angel Gabriel who revealed to him the first portion of God's Word to him. He told him what is translated "Read" or "Recite" and Muhammad replied to the same request three times "I can't read". Then Gabriel revealed to him the first five verses of the Qur'an and announced that he is to be the final Messenger of God to the whole of mankind.

"Read in the name of your Lord, who created (everything). He creates the human being from a small lump of cells clinging to the womb. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. He is the one who taught man to use the pen. He taught man that which he did not know."(Qur'an 96:1-5)

The Prophet (pbuh) went to his wife shaking from awe. She wrapped him in a blanket and he informed her of the extraordinary events which took place. She immediately proclaimed her faith to him saying "Never would God allow you to be affected by any evil! Truly you are dutiful to your family, you are concerned with helping others, you give to the needy, you are most hospitable to your guests, and you are known for speaking the truth and supporting others

when they speak the truth". She was the first person to believe in the Prophethood of Muhammad (pbuh).

For the next thirteen years the Qur'an was revealed to him and he preached the Word of God to the people of Makkah, inviting them to abandon idolatry and become monotheists, but few accepted his call. While the vast majority of the Makkans, especially those of his own tribe of Quraish, opposed him violently. They saw in the new religion a grave danger to their economic as well as social domination based upon their control of the Makkah and especially the Ka'bah. The new Muslims were tortured, sanctioned economically, and even killed all because they said that God is One and that we should abandon a sinful life in submission to God alone.

An interesting event happened after some of the high nobles of Quraish accepted Islam. The Quraish gathered and decided that since Muhammad is from the Quraish and he is of noble lineage that they will use this to save their lifestyle and control of the Makkah. They decided to go to the Prophet (pbuh) and offer him dominion of Makkah as the king of the Quraish. They promised him all he could desire if he would just simply give up his message. But in their ignorance, they didn't realize his faith and sincerity. He told them "If you put the Sun in my right hand and the moon in my left I will never leave the call of my Lord." (If you offered me everything in the world)

In 622 A. C. after being humiliated, tortured, and attacked as well as direct attempts to assassinate the Prophet, peace be upon him, God sent the command to migrate to Yathrib, a city north of Makkah. The Prophet (pbuh) followed the Divine Command and left with his followers for that city which was to be called from then on "The City of the Prophet" (Madinat al-nabi) because the people there reverted to Islam in masses within a years time. This event was so momentous that the Islamic calendar begins with this migration (Hijrah). In Madinah, the Prophet (pbuh) and his companions established the first Islamic State which should serve as the model for all later Islamic societies. Yet sadly enough, all Muslim societies today are ran much differently than the way the Prophet and the righteous Caliphs (Leaders of Islamic State) did throughout history. This sad reality has lead to weakness, ignorance, poverty, and injustice among Muslim communities.

After the Prophet and his companions settled in Madinah the Pagans of Makkah began plotting to attack the Muslims. Muslim informants from Makkah warned Madinah of this plot. After Praying for God's guidance, the command came from the Heavens for the

Muslims to defend themselves and secure the sacred ground of Madinah. So they set out to a land called Badr between Makkah and Madinah in the sake of God as an army and intercepted the Pagans who were 1000+ and heavily armed. The Muslims were 300+ with mostly swords and spears and little armor. In the end, the faith of the believers was more powerful and Divine assistance took place. After this there were 2 more major battles which consisted of the Pagans coming to surround Makkah with 3000+ men at the mountain of Uhud and later the Jewish tribes gathered 4000 soldiers joining forces with the Pagans of 6000+ surrounding Madinah. All of these attacks on the believers were unsuccessful in stopping Islam and God's Message.

Throughout these battles and especially afterwards when it became apparent that divine forces are protecting the Believers, more tribes began to join Islam and within a few years most of Arabia had embraced Islam. The Believers showed perseverance through the relentless efforts of the Pagans and Jews to attack the Muslims. After the Pagans broke a peace treaty made with the Muslims by killing a group of traveling Muslims, the Prophet was commanded by God to go to Makkah with an army of 10,000 in order to finally return Makkah back to its roots of monotheism and free it from paganism until the Day of Judgment.

After hundreds of Muslims were tortured and killed by the Polytheist Makkans the question arises, Did the Prophet take revenge and massacre these people? NO! He forgave all his former enemies and declared anyone who doesn't bear arms safe and under the protection of the new rule. He then marched to the Ka'bah, where he ordered his companions to join him in destroying all the idols and he (pbuh) asked a companion to climb on top of the Ka'ba and call for the Prayer. Upon this great event most pagans embraced Islam realizing the Prophet's Mercy and seeing how he has in 22 years gone from an accused mad sorcerer with no followers to a respected and deeply revered Prophet backed solely by the word of God and the whole of Arabia began to follow him. Who else could he be except who he says he is?

The Prophet then returned to Madinah and made his pilgrimage to Makkah the next year where he declared in front of over 100,000 believers "We have put the ways of ignorance behind us now; we must drop all ties with usury.

There is to be justice and no one should ever be oppressed in this Holy Land again; all men are equal regardless of black or white, rich or poor, Arab or non-Arab. *

The thing that distinguishes us from one another is piety; there shall be no more paganism in the Arabian Peninsula, and finally to be respectful, loving, and just in dealing with Muslim women knowing we will be called to account for how we dealt with our mothers, wives, and daughters on the Day of Judgment. During this time the verse was revealed to him:

"Today I have completed your guidance for you and perfected my blessing upon you and have willed for you to be Muslims submitting to My will"(5:3).

Soon after this he fell ill and after almost three months, He died in 632 C. E. in Madinah where he was buried in the chamber of his house next to the first mosque of Islam which is named after him May God's Peace and Mercy be upon Him. Amazingly, through 23 years, over a hundred assassination attempts and a few battles he did not die. Yet when the finality of God's message came he passed within a few months. This is exactly what we should expect for the Final Messenger to mankind.

3. His Moral Characteristics and Mannerisms

Ali the 4th Caliph and son in law of the Prophet (pbuh) described him as such:

He was very modest and never spoke with foul words and when he was in the presence of obscenity he would leave and rebuke it. He never raised his voice. He never reacted to a bad deed inflicted upon him with another bad deed. He was always pardoning and forgiving. He never hit a servant or a woman. He never took revenge on anyone who oppressed him. He never broke any of the God's commandments (he was sinless). He became angered when people sinned. When he was faced with two options he always took the easier of the two. When he was at home he was a man like any other. He used to cook, sow, and clean the house. He only talked about that which concerned him. He united people and never alienated them. He was generous with whatever he had. He always tried to get to know people and would ask about them in their absence. He was very balanced in his character and

mannerism. He was constantly remembering God Almighty. If he sat with some people he wouldn't leave until the others left. If he sat with others he didn't act as though he was better than others. If someone gave him a hard time he was patient with them. If anyone asked him for something he gave it to them if he had it.

Everyone liked his presence and easiness. He became like a father to us all. To sit with him, was always like being in an open classroom of knowledge. We would learn to be patient, persevering, truthful, and modest from sitting with him. No one raising their voice and nobody speaks badly about others. Nobody speaks of rumors. Nobody speaks about their wife or relationship with her. Everyone was equal in the sitting of the Prophet (pbuh) keeping a gracious disposition in the remembrance of the Almighty. The old were respected and the young received compassion and mercy.

It was also said about the Messenger of the Almighty: He was always joyful. He was very compassionate and affectionate never harsh, never greedy. He never argued, he laughed at what others did and was amazed by what others were amazed by. He was patient for the one who was harsh to him, he never accepted praise except what was reasonable, he never interrupted anyone, he never told a lie (not even in joking or exaggerating), anyone who saw him unexpectedly was in awe, whoever got to know him loved him. No companion ever met anyone like him before or after his passing. (Shama'il At-tirmidhi)

4. His Miracles

Every Prophet is sent with certain miracles to prove to those who he is sent to that indeed he is supported by the Divine. It is authentically narrated that when some of the Pagans asked him to prove himself he told them to look at the moon and before their eyes it split into two distinct segments one over one side of the mountain and the other over the other side. The account of this event is located in the Qur'an in the first verses of chapter 54. It is narrated that he milked a barren sheep until the milk overflowed. There was a time when they only had one bucket of water and hundreds of people made their ablutions for prayer from that bucket when he put his blessed hands in it and it began to overflow. He spit on his hand and rubbed the inflamed red eye of his son in law Ali and it was immediately cured. Trees and animals used to say "Peace be upon you" to him and the tree trunk in which he leaned to give sermons moaned for a day after he passed. And the list goes on...

The greatest miracle which God bestowed upon him is a standing miracle for all people of all times to experience. Since he is the last Prophet, God has preserved the Last Miracle of His Prophethood which is the Qur'an so that it would stand as a proof for His final message. The Qur'an challenges the most eloquent of Arabs to bring forth a book or even a three sentence chapter which will be accepted by other eloquent Arabs as equal or better literary speaking. The Qur'an has many predictions which all came true. It tells about unknown history and even corrected incorrectly understood historical facts all which came to be known centuries after its revelation. It is free from error or contradiction. Over 1400 years and it hasn't changed one letter. It contains many detailed scientific truths which have only become known recently and as a result many of the world's great scientists many of which were atheist have accepted Islam. And despite it being in pure Arabic, millions of Non-Arabic speaking Muslims memorize it to the letter and can beautifully recite it.

Conclusion

Regardless of your faith or background, if you haven't become hungry for more knowledge of the great faith of Islam, we at least hope to have gained your respect and we hope and pray that you will correct anyone spreading hate and lies about Muhammad, May the Peace and Blessings of God be upon him, and His noble message of truth.

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